

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STUTTG 01078 021437Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 /066 W
-----050848 040327Z /73

R 021030Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4373
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STUTTGART 1078

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSAREUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT GW
SUBJECT: THE FILBINGER AFFAIR

REF: STUTTGART 1070

1. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION MAY 30, STUTTGART LORD MAYOR ROMMEL TOLD US THAT HE FEARED MINISTER-PRESIDENT FILBINGER'S POLITICAL FUTURE WAS IRREVOCABLY COMPROMISED BY THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING WHAT HAS BECOME THE "FILBINGER AFFAIR." ROMMEL FELT FILBINGER HAD MADE A MAJOR TACTICAL ERROR IN DECIDING TO GO TO COURT INSTEAD OF LYING LOW AND LETTING THINGS PERHAPS BLOW OVER; THE LAWSUIT HAD SIMPLY INVITED MORE PUBLICITY. ROMMEL SAID THAT EARLY ON
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PAGE 02 STUTTG 01078 021437Z

FILBINGER HAD SOUGHT HIS VIEWS AND IN A LONG DISCUSSION HE HAD COUNSELED FILBINGER AGAINST BRINGING SUIT. FILBINGER HAD BEEN CLEARLY DISTURBED AT THE TIME BY WHAT HOCHHUT HAD WRITTEN AND DIE ZEIT HAD PUBLISHED AND WAS RELUCTANT TO MAKE NO REBUTTAL. HOWEVER, FILBINGER HAD BEEN VERY CONFUSED AND UNCERTAIN OVER WHAT COURSE HE SHOULD FOLLOW AND UNFORTUNATELY HE HAD FINALLY CHOSEN TO FOLLOW LESS SOUND ADVICE THAN WHAT ROMMEL HAD GIVEN

HIM. FILBINGER TODAY WAS STILL VERY CONFUSED, SAID ROMMEL, AND SEEMED ALMOST UNABLE TO GRASP HOW THINGS COULD HAVE TAKEN THE DRAMATIC TURN THAT THEY HAVE.

3. ON MAY 31 AN OFFICIAL ON FILBINGER'S STAFF AT THE STAATSMINISTERIUM TOLD US THAT THE MOOD THERE WAS ONE OF "SEVERE CRISIS." WHEN ASKED POINTBLANK WHETHER HE THOUGHT FILBINGER MIGHT RESIGN, THIS OFFICIAL WOULD NOT GIVE A DIRECT ANSWER BUT SAID HE WAS "VERY PESSIMISTIC." "HOW," HE ASKED RHETORICALLY, "CAN FILBINGER CARRY ON IF EVERY TIME HE SPEAKS IN PUBLIC NOW HE IS HOOTED DOWN BY RAMBUNCTIOUS YOUTH?"
MILLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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